



Phase II and Phase III Archeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18AG183

Site Name: Romsburg

Prehistoric ☒

Other name(s)

Historic ☒

Unknown ☐

Brief Description:

Early - Late Archaic short-term camp

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Latitude 39.7020 Longitude -78.5404

Elevation 238 m Site slope

Site setting

-Site Setting restricted

-Lat/Long accurate to within 1 sq. mile, user may need to make slight adjustments in mapping to account for sites near state/county lines or streams

Maryland Archeological Research Unit No. 21

SCS soil & sediment code

Physiographic province Ridge and Valley

Terrestrial site ☒

Underwater site ☐

Ethnobotany profile available ☐ Maritime site ☐

Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Town Creek

Saltwater

Ocean ☐

Estuary/tidal river ☐

Tidewater/marsh ☐

Spring ☐

Minimum distance to water is 75 m

Freshwater

Stream/river ☒

Swamp ☐

Lake or pond ☐

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site ☐

Woodland site ☐

Archaic site ☐

MD Adena ☐

Early archaic ☒

Early woodland ☐

Middle archaic ☒

Mid. woodland ☐

Late archaic ☒

Late woodland ☐

Unknown prehistoric context ☐

Contact period site ☐

ca. 1820 - 1860 ☐

ca. 1630 - 1675 ☐

ca. 1860 - 1900 ☐

ca. 1675 - 1720 ☐

ca. 1900 - 1930 ☐

ca. 1720 - 1780 ☐

Post 1930 ☐

ca. 1780 - 1820 ☐

Unknown historic context ☐

Unknown context ☐

Ethnic Associations (historic only)

Native American ☐

Asian American ☐

African American ☐

Unknown ☐

Anglo-American ☐

Other ☐

Hispanic ☐

Y=Confirmed, P=Possible

Site Function Contextual Data:

Prehistoric

Multi-component ☒

Misc. ceremonial ☐

Village ☐

Rock art ☐

Hamlet ☐

Shell midden ☐

Base camp ☐

STU/lithic scatter ☒

Rockshelter/cave ☐

Quarry/extraction ☐

Earthen mound ☐

Fish weir ☐

Cairn ☐

Production area ☐

Burial area ☐

Unknown ☐

Other context ☐

Historic

Urban/Rural? Rural ☒

Domestic

Homestead ☐

Farmstead ☐

Mansion ☐

Plantation ☐

Row/townhome ☐

Cellar ☐

Privy ☐

Industrial

Mining-related ☐

Quarry-related ☐

Mill ☐

Black/metalsmith ☐

Furnace/forge ☐

Other ☐

Transportation

Canal-related ☐

Road/railroad ☐

Wharf/landing ☐

Maritime-related ☐

Bridge ☐

Ford ☐

Educational

Commercial

Trading post ☐

Store ☐

Tavern/inn ☐

Military

Battlefield ☐

Fortification ☐

Encampment ☐

Townsite

Religious

Church/mtg house ☐

Ch support bldg ☐

Burial area

Cemetery ☐

Sepulchre ☐

Isolated burial ☐

Bldg or foundation ☐

Possible Structure ☐

Post-in-ground ☐

Frame-built ☐

Masonry ☐

Other structure ☐

Slave related

Non-domestic agri

Recreational ☐

Midden/dump ☐

Artifact scatter ☐

Spring or well ☐

Unknown ☒

Other context ☐

Interpretive Sampling Data:

Prehistoric context samples

Soil samples taken N

Flotation samples taken N

Other samples taken

Historic context samples

Soil samples taken N

Flotation samples taken N

Other samples taken



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Diagnostic Artifact Data:

Projectile Point Types	
Clovis	<input type="text"/>
Hardaway-Dalton	<input type="text"/>
Palmer	<input type="text"/> 1
Kirk (notch)	<input type="text"/>
Kirk (stem)	<input type="text"/>
Le Croy	<input type="text"/>
Morrow Mntn	<input type="text"/>
Guilford	<input type="text"/>
Brewerton	<input type="text"/> 4
Otter Creek	<input type="text"/>
Koens-Crispin	<input type="text"/>
Perkiomen	<input type="text"/>
Susquehanna	<input type="text"/> 1
Vernon	<input type="text"/>
Piscataway	<input type="text"/>
Calvert	<input type="text"/>
Selby Bay	<input type="text"/>
Jacks Rf (notch)	<input type="text"/>
Jacks Rf (pent)	<input type="text"/>
Madison/Potomac	<input type="text"/>
Levanna	<input type="text"/>

Prehistoric Sherd Types

Marcey Creek	<input type="text"/>	Popes Creek	<input type="text"/>	Shepard	<input type="text"/>	Keyser	<input type="text"/>
Dames Qtr	<input type="text"/>	Coulbourn	<input type="text"/>	Townsend	<input type="text"/>	Yeocomico	<input type="text"/>
Selden Island	<input type="text"/>	Watson	<input type="text"/>	Minguannan	<input type="text"/>	Monongahela	<input type="text"/>
Accokeek	<input type="text"/>	Mockley	<input type="text"/>	Sullivan Cove	<input type="text"/>	Susquehannock	<input type="text"/>
Wolfe Neck	<input type="text"/>	Clemson Island	<input type="text"/>	Shenks Ferry	<input type="text"/>		
Vinette	<input type="text"/>	Page	<input type="text"/>	Moyaone	<input type="text"/>		
				Potomac Cr	<input type="text"/>		

Historic Sherd Types

Earthenware	Ironstone	<input type="text"/>	Staffordshire	<input type="text"/>	Stoneware	
Astbury	Jackfield	<input type="text"/>	Tin Glazed	<input type="text"/>	English Brown	<input type="text"/>
Borderware	Mn Mottled	<input type="text"/>	Whiteware	<input type="text"/>	Eng Dry-bodie	<input type="text"/>
Buckley	North Devon	<input type="text"/>	Porcelain	<input type="text"/>	Nottingham	<input type="text"/>
Creamware	Pearlware	<input type="text"/>			Rhenish	<input type="text"/>
					Wt Salt-glazed	<input type="text"/>

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts	
Flaked stone	<input type="text"/> 316
Ground stone	<input type="text"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="text"/>
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="text"/> 116
Other lithics (all)	<input type="text"/> 28
Ceramics (all)	<input type="text"/> 1
Rimsherds	<input type="text"/>
Other fired clay	<input type="text"/>
Human remain(s)	<input type="text"/>
Modified faunal	<input type="text"/>
Unmod faunal	<input type="text"/>
Oyster shell	<input type="text"/>
Floral material	<input type="text"/>
Uncommon Obj.	<input type="text"/>
Other	<input type="text"/>

Prehistoric Features

Mound(s)	<input type="text"/>	Storage/trash pit	<input type="text"/>
Midden	<input type="text"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="text"/>
Shell midden	<input type="text"/>	Ossuary	<input type="text"/>
Postholes/molds	<input type="text"/>	Unknown	<input type="text"/>
House pattern(s)	<input type="text"/>	Other	<input type="text"/>
Palisade(s)	<input type="text"/>		
Hearth(s)	<input type="text"/>		
Lithic reduc area	<input type="text"/>		

Lithic Material

Fer quartzite	<input type="text"/>	Sil sandstone	<input type="text"/>
Jasper	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chalcedony	<input type="text"/>
Chert	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ironstone	<input type="text"/>
Rhyolite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Argilite	<input type="text"/>
Quartz	<input type="text"/>	Steatite	<input type="text"/>
Quartzite	<input type="text"/>	Sandstone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		siltstone	<input type="text"/>

☐ Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts	
Pottery (all)	<input type="text"/> 2
Glass (all)	<input type="text"/> 3
Architectural	<input type="text"/> 99
Furniture	<input type="text"/>
Arms	<input type="text"/>
Clothing	<input type="text"/>
Personal items	<input type="text"/>
Tobacco related	<input type="text"/>
Activity item(s)	<input type="text"/> 59
Human remain(s)	<input type="text"/>
Faunal material	<input type="text"/>
Misc. kitchen	<input type="text"/>
Floral material	<input type="text"/>
Misc.	<input type="text"/>
Other	<input type="text"/>

Historic Features

Privy/outhouse	<input type="text"/>	Depression/mound	<input type="text"/>	Unknown	<input type="text"/>
Const feature	<input type="text"/>	Well/cistern	<input type="text"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="text"/>
Foundation	<input type="text"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input type="text"/>	Railroad bed	<input type="text"/>
Cellar hole/cellar	<input type="text"/>	Sheet midden	<input type="text"/>	Earthworks	<input type="text"/>
Hearth/chimney	<input type="text"/>	Planting feature	<input type="text"/>	Mill raceway	<input type="text"/>
Postholes/molds	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Road/walkway	<input type="text"/>	Wheel pit	<input type="text"/>
Paling ditch/fence	<input type="text"/>				

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Radiocarbon Data:

Sample 1:	<input type="text"/> +/- <input type="text"/> years BP	Reliability	Sample 2:	<input type="text"/> +/- <input type="text"/> years BP	Reliability	Sample 3:	<input type="text"/> +/- <input type="text"/> years BP	Reliability
Sample 4:	<input type="text"/> +/- <input type="text"/> years BP	Reliability	Sample 5:	<input type="text"/> +/- <input type="text"/> years BP	Reliability	Sample 6:	<input type="text"/> +/- <input type="text"/> years BP	Reliability
Sample 7:	<input type="text"/> +/- <input type="text"/> years BP	Reliability	Sample 8:	<input type="text"/> +/- <input type="text"/> years BP	Reliability	Sample 9:	<input type="text"/> +/- <input type="text"/> years BP	Reliability

☐ Additional radiocarbon results available



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Description:

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External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at MAC

☐ Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

Phase II archeological testing at the Romsburg site was undertaken due to the impact of the proposed re-alignment of US-48, the National Freeway (modern US I-68), in Allegany County. Construction of the new alignment and approach for a bridge would result in destruction of the site. The site is located on a broad sloping terrace of Town Creek, adjacent to the old Gilpin Tannery manager's house, which is in the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties. The tannery itself is defunct, and its potential location within the right-of-way was a major concern of the investigation. Ultimately the tannery was found to be located outside the project area and the primary occupation at Romsburg appears to be Archaic.

Soils on the site belong to the Weikert-Gilpin association and are characterized by shallow development, good to excessive drainage, and high stone content (mostly shale). The southern portion of the site consists of acidic Monongahela silt loam. Moderately eroded, well-drained, acidic Allegheny silt loam occupies the northern site area. Previous research (two series of shovel test pits) indicated the presence of both historic architectural debris and prehistoric lithics.

Phase II testing involved both a controlled surface survey and excavation of ten 1 X 1 m test units. Areas plowed for surface collection were based on the previous shovel testing, which had determined approximate site limits. Excavation units were placed to sample areas of high surface artifact concentration. Units were excavated in 10 cm arbitrary levels and all but the plowzone soils were screened. Flotation samples were taken from features and saved for later processing.

Four features were encountered during the excavation. Feature 1, a postmold, occurred in an area of high prehistoric artifact concentration. However, this appears to be from a historic fencepost, due to the presence of a metal fence staple in a horizontal position along one feature edge. Feature 2 was a small 32 X 25 cm discoloration containing charcoal flecks. It is irregular in shape and contained no artifacts. It was interpreted as a burned root or stump. Flotation of a soil sample from the feature yielded only charcoal. Feature 3 appears to be another postmold related to the historic fence (Feature 1). And finally, Feature 4 was a shallow 10 to 15 cm deep basin filled with less compact soil, charcoal flecks, cinders, and a single chert flake. Flotation sampling yielded more charcoal and a chert micro flake. This feature was situated directly above a very dense concentration of prehistoric lithics.

Only one prehistoric ceramic object was recovered from the site during Phase II research, a small and amorphous lump tempered with sandstone. It is too eroded and fragmentary to be assigned to a specific time period within the Woodland era.

A total of 316 flaked stone objects were recovered during Phase II work, most of which (270 pieces) were classified as debitage. Twenty unifaces and 26 bifaces were found. Thirteen of the bifaces can be classified as projectile points, 11 of which are sufficiently complete to merit typological analysis. The oldest point recovered is a small brown jasper Palmer corner-notched point. Three Brewerton side-notched, 1 Brewerton eared notched point, 3 side-notched Normanskill points, a contracting-stemmed Poplar Island point, a Susquehanna Broadspear and a Dry Brook Fishtail point were also found. Aside from a single straight-stemmed point, the rest of the projectiles are too fragmentary to permit any kind of identification. Other lithics recovered include 22 hammerstones, 1 anvil 1 abrader (or possibly a historic whetstone), 3 manos, and 1 pitted stone.

The historic artifact assemblage consisted largely of temporally non-diagnostic coal, cinders, a small quantity of historic ceramics, and architectural debris (brick and mortar fragments, nails, and window glass). This scattering of historic artifacts was attributed to field dumping.

Phase II investigations revealed the presence of Early Archaic, Middle Archaic and Transitional occupations. Only one Woodland artifact was recovered (a sherd). Analysis of the lithic artifact assemblage reveals a very low debitage to tool ratio (4:1). Tool manufacture was a minor activity on this site. A high frequency of use-modified tools as well as a high proportion of fire-cracked rock suggests that plant food and/or perhaps fibrous vegetation processing was the focus of the major occupation of this site. Other activities taking place, suggested by both flaked stone tool morphologies, working edge characteristics, and breakage patterns, include hunting, butchering, and hide-processing.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00000081